AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of transmitting data comprising the steps of:

channel coding an encoder packet to produce a channel coded encoder packet; and

puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder packet to produce a first encoder sub-packet having a first size based on a size of the encoder packet and a first data transmission rate at which the first encoder sub-packet is to be transmitted, wherein the first data transmission rate is different from and based on a data rate for transmitting the first encoder sub-packet indicated in a first rate indication message from a receiver.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first data transmission rate is based on first channel conditions measured at a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first encoder sub-packet has a format which allows the first encoder sub-packet to be soft combined with a second encoder sub-packet derived from the same encoder packet as the first encoder sub-packet.

4.   (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first encoder sub-packet is of a different size than the second encoder sub-packet.

5.   (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first encoder sub-packet is of an identical size than the second encoder sub-packet.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

adding a first encoder packet size identifier to the first encoder sub-packet indicating the size of the encoder packet from which the first encoder sub-packet was derived.

7.   (original) The method of claim 6 comprising the additional step of:

transmitting the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder packet size identifier at the first data transmission rate.

8.   (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder packet size identifier is modulated using a modulation scheme based on the first data transmission rate.

9.   (original) The method of claim 7 comprising the additional step of:
        prior to the step of transmitting the first encoder sub-packet, transmitting a rate indication message to a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended indicating the first data transmission rate.

10.   (original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
        adding an encoder sub-packet format identifier to the first encoder sub-packet indicating a first format of the first encoder sub-packet.

11.   (original) The method of claim 10 comprising the additional step of:
        transmitting the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder sub-packet format identifier at the first data transmission rate.

12.   (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first encoder sub-packet with the first encoder sub-packet format identifier is modulated using a modulation scheme based on the first data transmission rate.

13.   (original) The method of claim 11 comprising the additional step of:
        prior to the step of transmitting the encoder sub-packet, transmitting a first rate indication message to a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet is intended indicating the first data transmission rate.

14.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
        prior to the step of puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder packet, receiving [a] the first rate indication message from a receiver to which the encoder packet is intended indicating a data rate based on first channel conditions measured at the receiver.

15.   (canceled)

16.   (currently amended) The method of claim [15] 14 comprising the additional step of:

transmitting a new rate message to the intended receiver indicating the first data transmission rate.

17.   (original) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional steps of:

receiving a NACK message indicating that a transmission of the encoder sub-packet was not successfully received at a receiver to which the first encoder sub-packet was intended; and

puncturing and/or repeating the channel coded encoder packet to produce a second encoder sub-packet having a second size based on a size of the encoder packet and a second data transmission rate at which the second encoder sub-packet is to be transmitted.

18.   (currently amended) A method of receiving a data transmission comprising the steps of:

receiving at a receiver a message indicating a first data transmission rate;

receiving a first encoder sub-packet with a first encoder packet size identifier indicating a size of the first encoder sub-packet; and

decoding the first encoder sub-packet using the first encoder packet size identifier and the first data transmission rate, wherein the first data transmission rate is different from and based on a data rate for transmitting the first encoder sub-packet indicated in a first rate indication message from a receiver.

19.   (original) The method of claim 18 comprising the additional step of:

transmitting a negative acknowledgement message and a rate indication message if the first encoder sub-packet can not be successfully decoded, wherein the rate indication message indicates current channel conditions at the receiver.

20.   (original) The method of claim 19, comprising the additional steps of:

receiving a message indicating a second data transmission rate;

receiving a second encoder sub-packet with a second encoder packet size identifier indicating a size of the second encoder sub-packet; and

decoding the second encoder sub-packet using the second data transmission rate, the second encoder packet size identifier and the first encoder sub-packet.

21.   (currently amended) A method of receiving a data transmission comprising the steps of:

receiving at a receiver a message indicating a first data transmission rate;

receiving a first encoder sub-packet with a first encoder sub-packet format identifier indicating a format of the first encoder sub-packet; and

decoding the first encoder sub-packet using the first encoder sub-packet format identifier and the first data transmission rate, wherein the first data transmission rate is different from and based on a data rate for transmitting the first encoder sub-packet indicated in a first rate indication message from a receiver.

22.   (original) The method of claim 21 comprising the additional step of:

transmitting a negative acknowledgement message and a rate indication message if the first encoder sub-packet can not be successfully decoded, wherein the rate indication message indicates current channel conditions at the receiver.

23.   (original) The method of claim 22, comprising the additional steps of:

receiving a message indicating a second data transmission rate;

receiving a second encoder sub-packet with a second encoder sub-packet format identifier encoder sub-packet indicating a format of the second encoder sub-packet; and

decoding the second encoder sub-packet using the second data transmission rate, the second encoder sub-packet format identifier and the first encoder sub-packet.